

REMARKS

Claims 11-30 are pending as new claims. Claims 1-10 are canceled.

Previously, claims 4-6, 9, and 10 were objected to based on form. Because those claims are now canceled, the objection is now moot.

Also, claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bunce (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,646) in view of Fukushima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,282,059). Because those claims also are canceled, this rejection is now moot.

Applicant presents new claims 11-30 and submits that these new claims distinguish the invention from Bunce and Fukushima et al. Note, for example, that the claims describe the present invention by reciting the terminology “a plurality of templates,” and the claims further specify an additional feature of the invention as follows: Claim 11 specifies that:

... the pattern collation control unit selects at least one of the templates based on a combination of mark dots and space dots from among a current dot of interest and its neighboring dots in the output data from the window.

Claim 16 specifies that:

... the pattern collation control unit selects at least one of the templates based on a combination of mark dots and space dots from among the current dot of interest and neighboring dots in the window pattern.

Claims 18 and 23 specify that:

... the template is selected based on a combination of mark dots and space dots from among a current dot of interest and its neighboring dots in the output data from the window.

Claim 30 specifies that:

a pattern collation control unit that ... selects at least one of the templates based on a combination of mark dots and space dots from among a current dot of interest and its neighboring dots in the output data from the window.

Claims 12-15, 17, 19-22, and 24-29 depend from one of claims 11, 16, 18, 23, and 30, so they also recite the quoted subject matter by virtue of their dependency. Neither Bunce nor Fukushima et al., either alone or combined, teach or suggest this claimed subject matter.

The Office Action states (*e.g.*, on page 5) that Bunce discloses a “pattern collation control means” that switches to select an array conversion means according to a logical combination of mark dots and space dots. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Instead, Bunce only discloses a plurality of array conversion means (note Fig. 4) and selecting one array conversion means from among the plurality of array conversion means. Bunce does not teach or suggest that its image processing apparatus has “a plurality of templates” or that a pattern collation control unit selects at least one of the templates based on a combination of mark dots and space dots from among a current dot of interest and its neighboring dots in the output data from the window as described in the pending claims.

Accordingly, applicant now solicits the allowance of claims 11-30.

In view of the remarks above, applicant now submits that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is believed that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, applicant petitions for an extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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